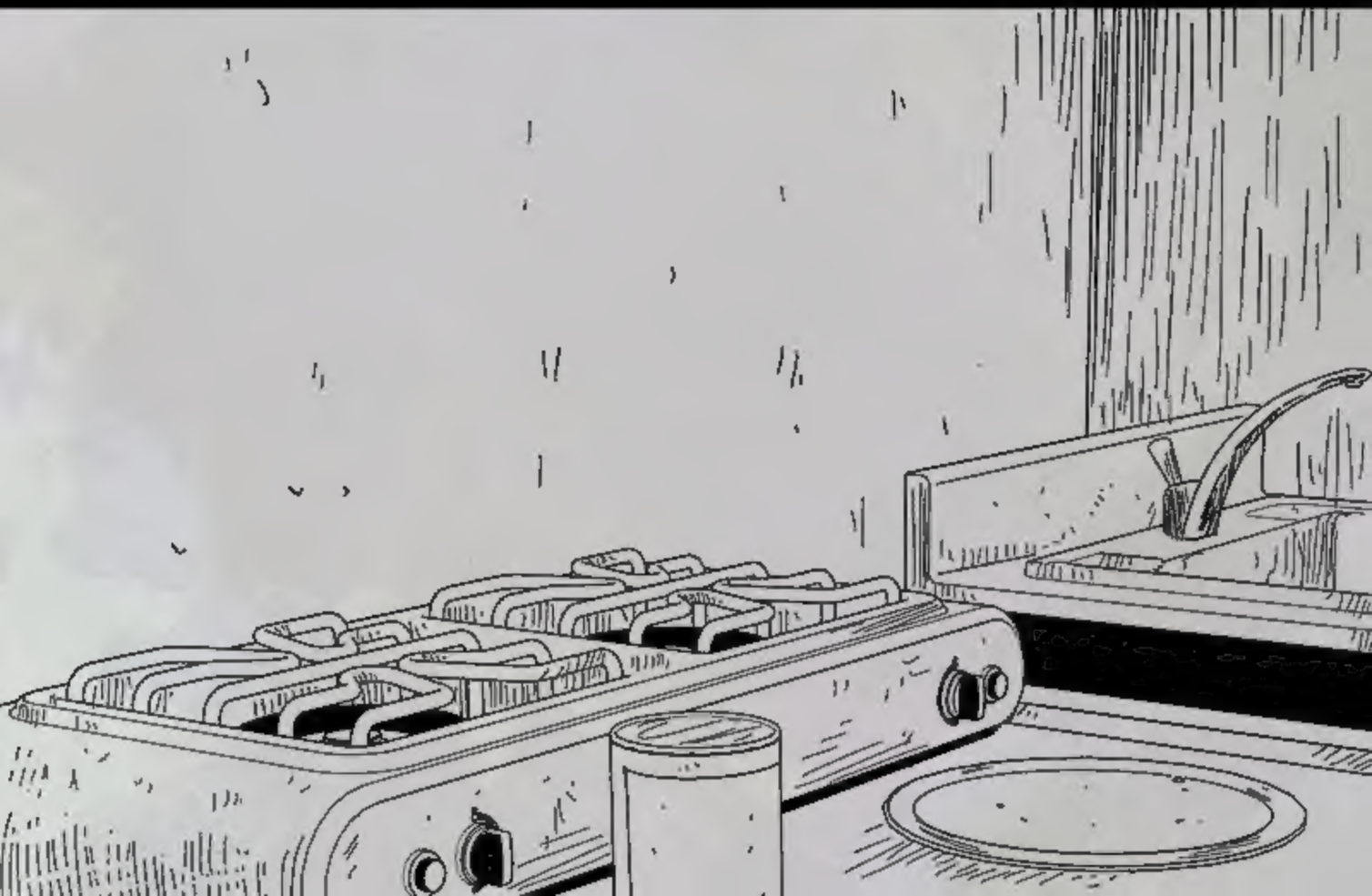
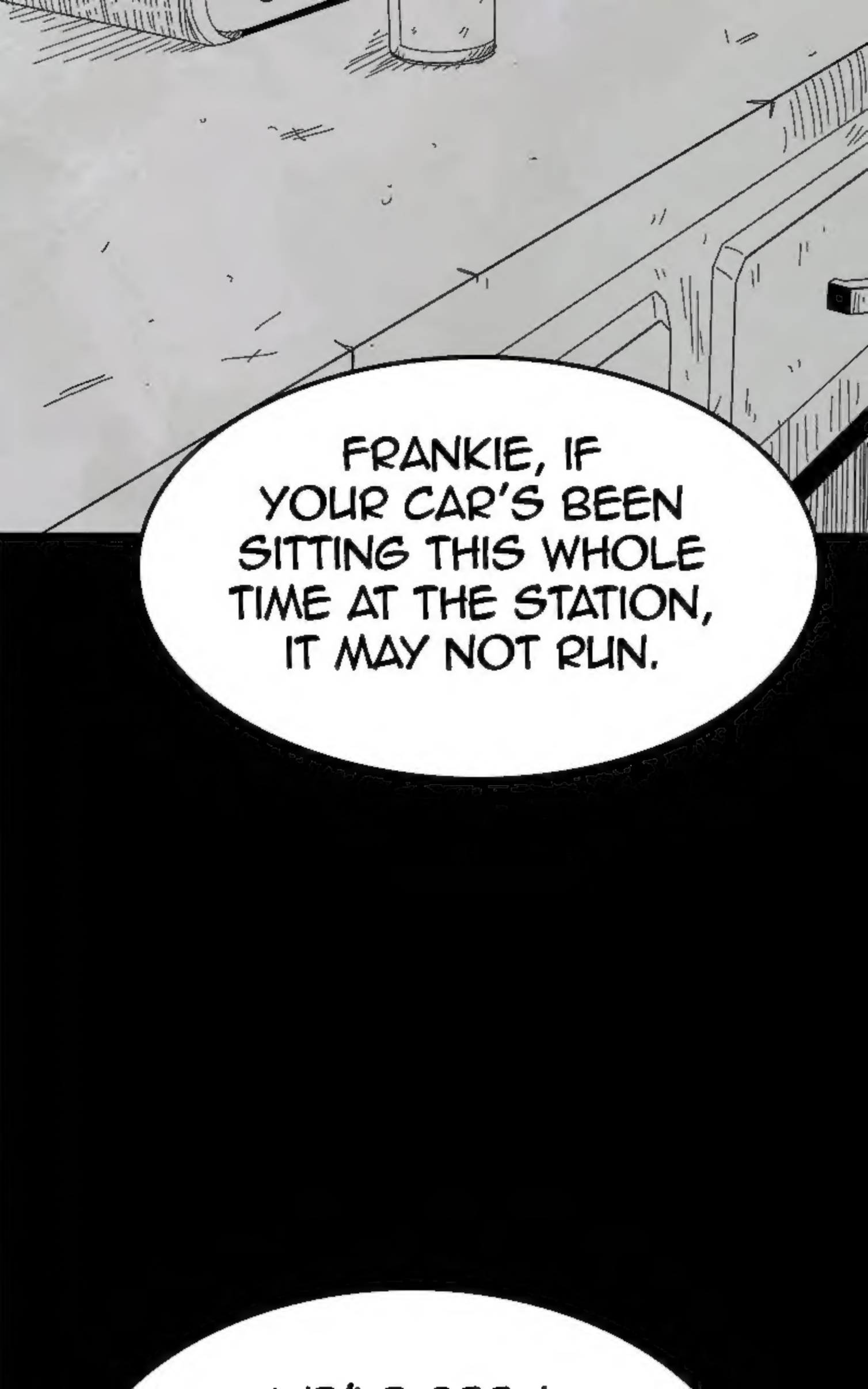
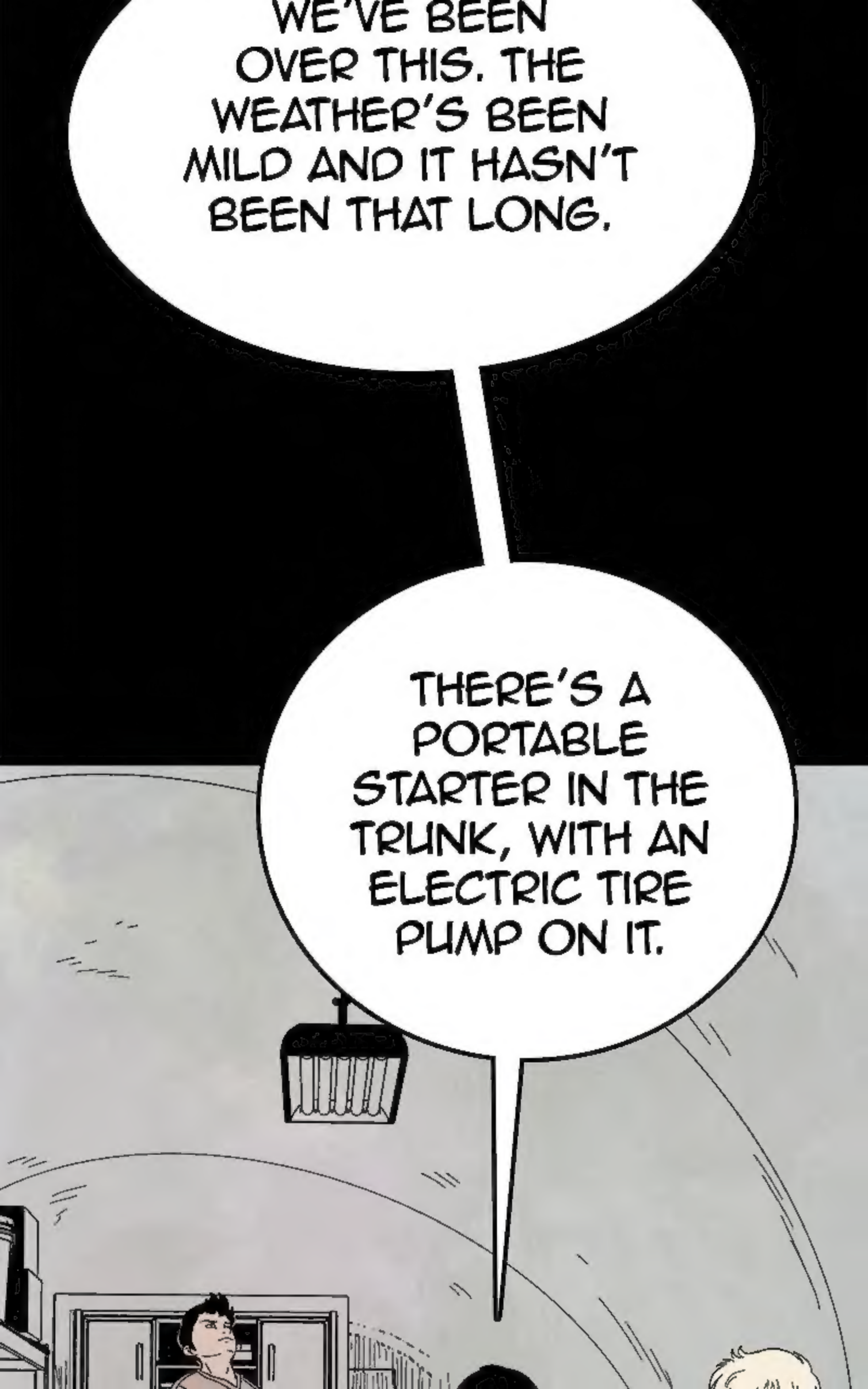
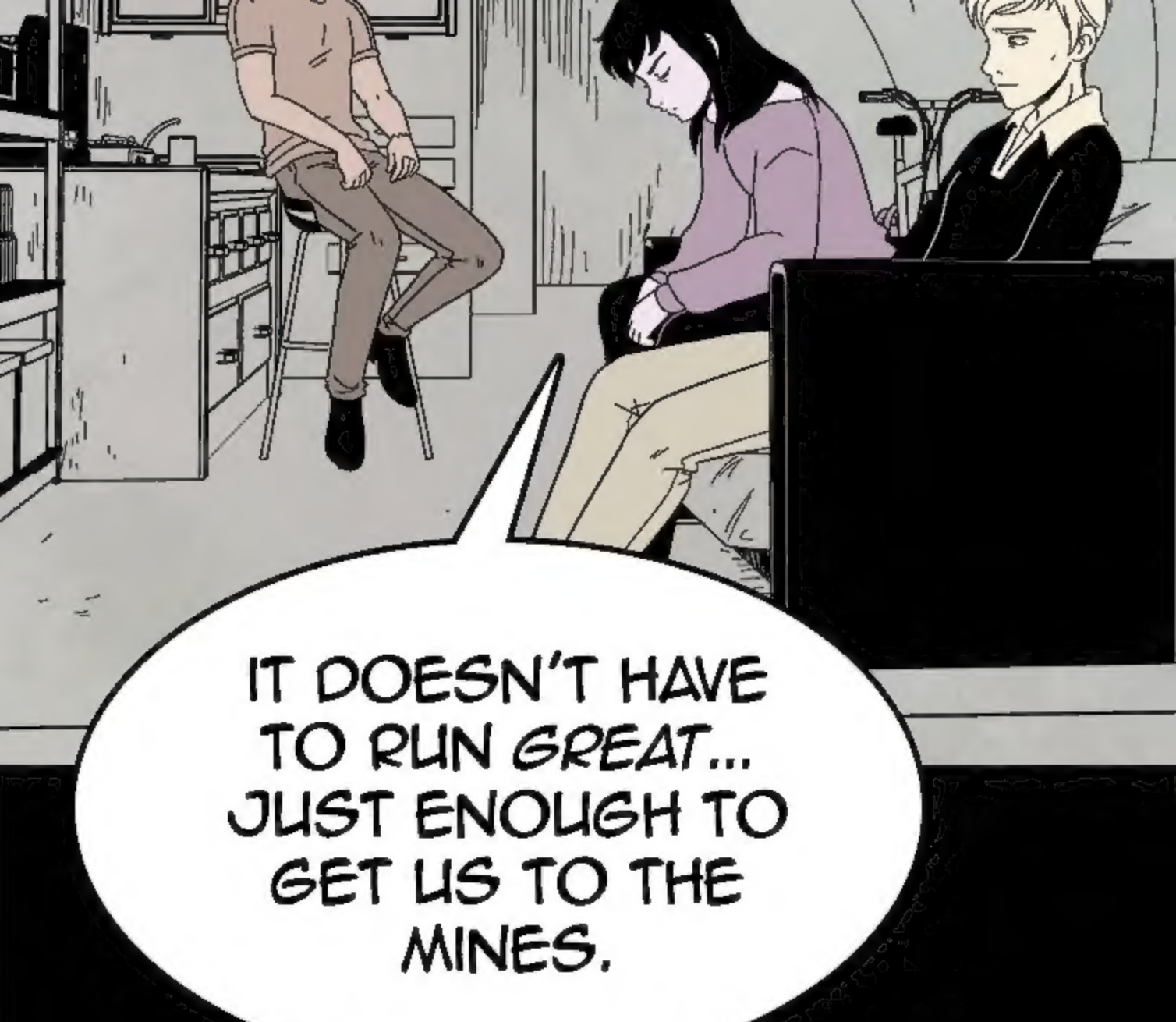
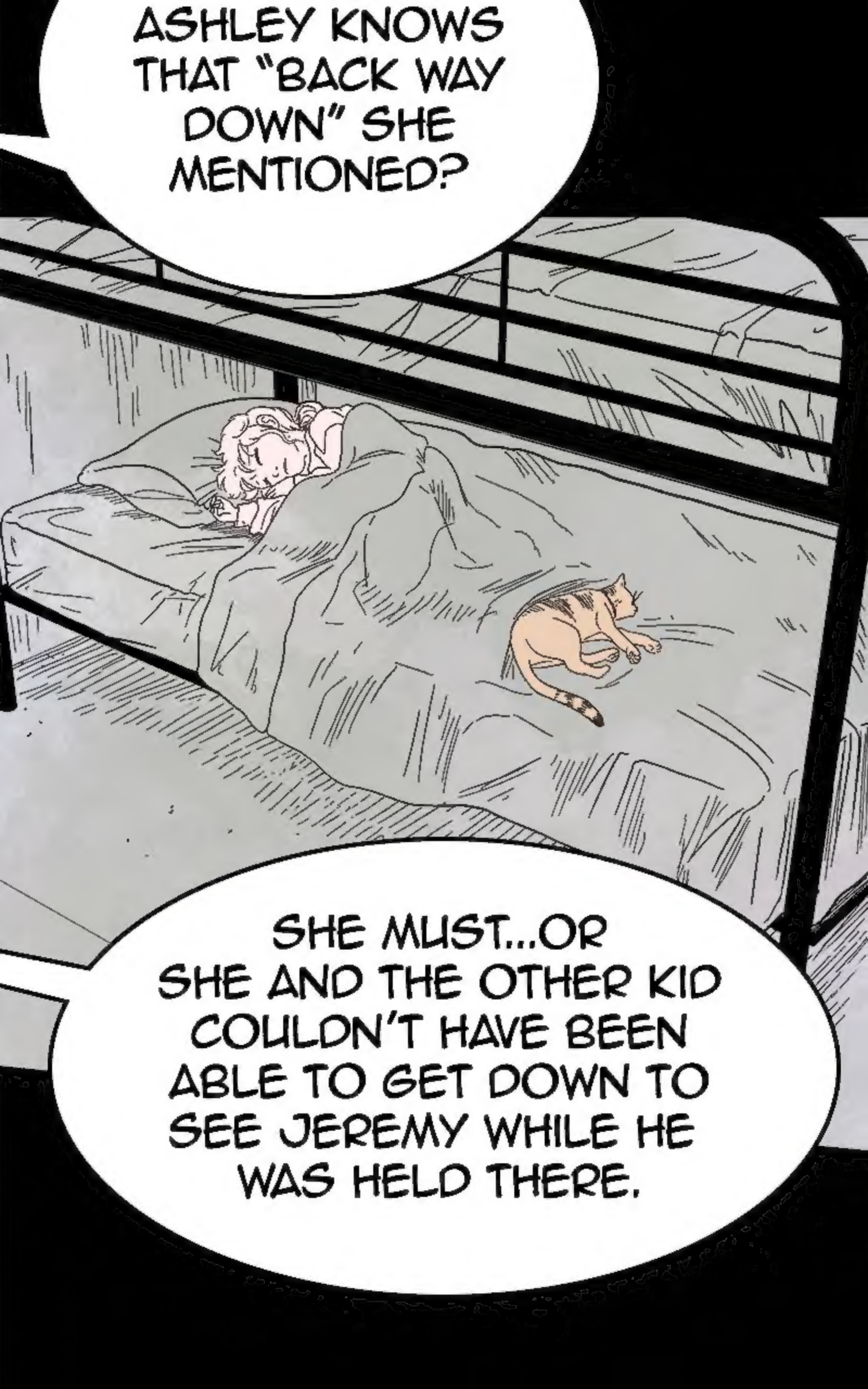



FRANKIE, IF YOUR CAR'S BEEN SITTING THIS WHOLE TIME AT THE STATION, IT MAY NOT RUN.

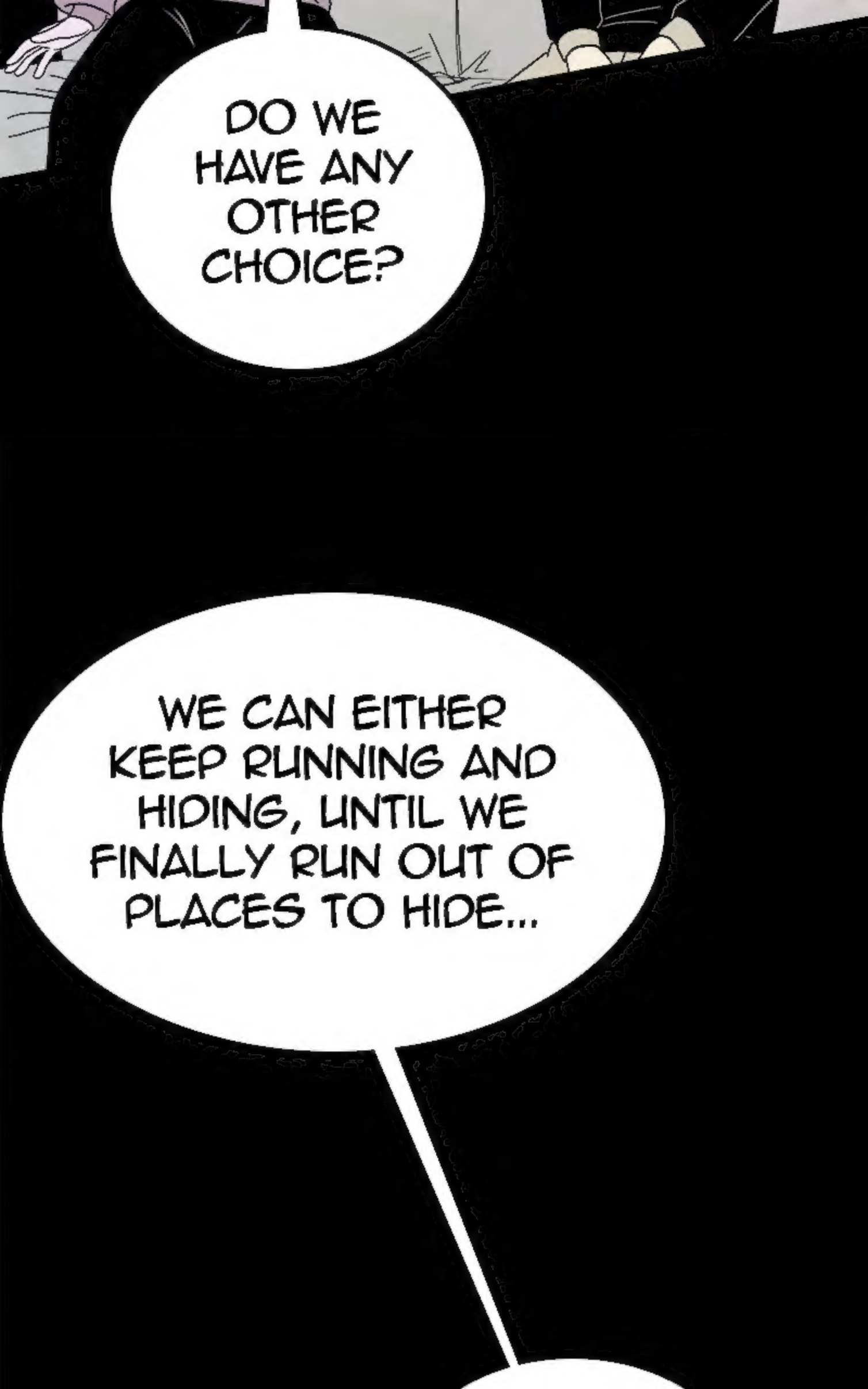

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS. THE WEATHER'S BEEN MILD AND IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG.
THERE'S A PORTABLE STARTER IN THE TRUNK, WITH AN ELECTRIC TIRE PUMP ON IT.



YOU THINK

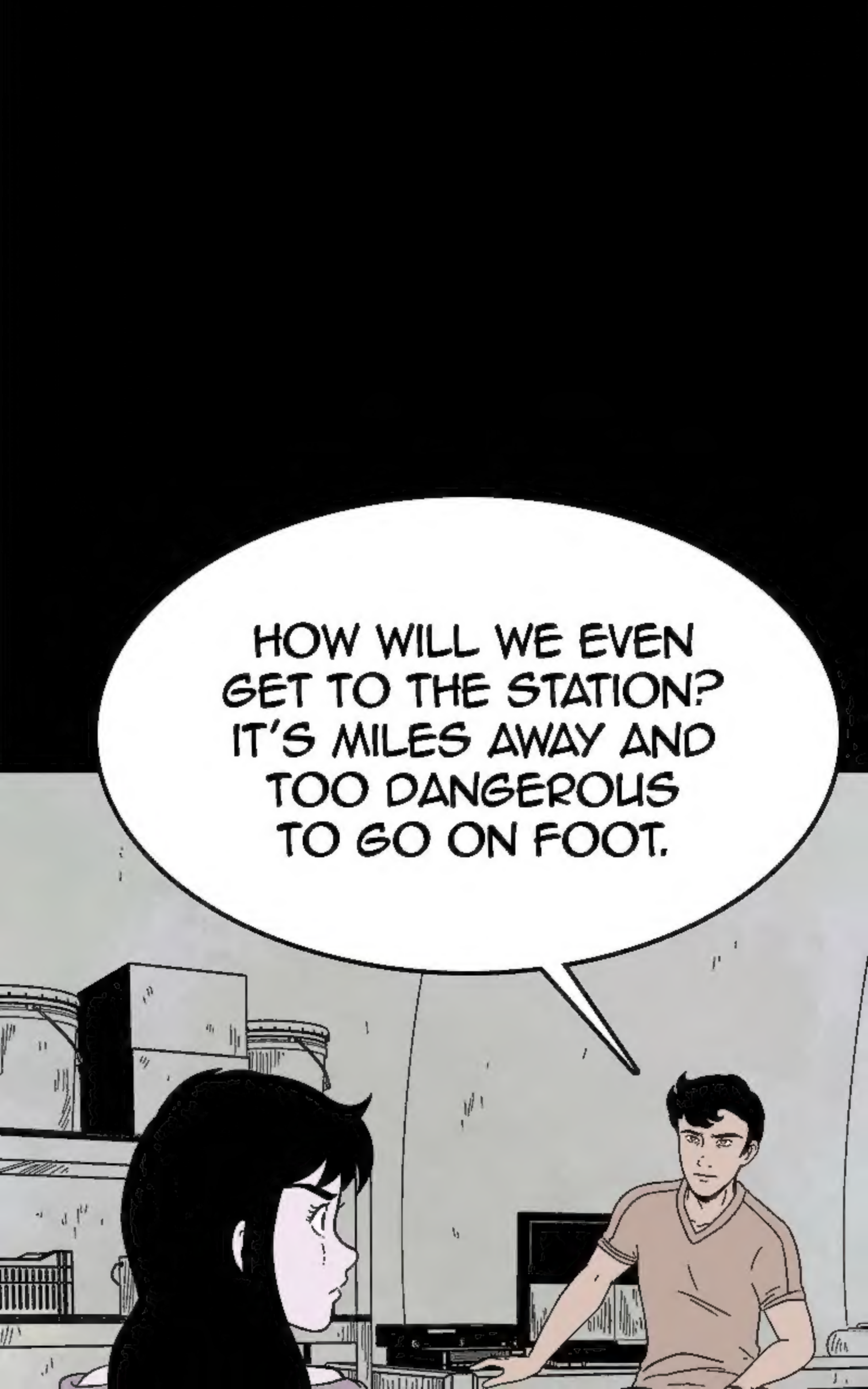

ASHLEY KNOWS THAT "BACK WAY DOWN" SHE MENTIONED?
SHE MUST...OR SHE AND THE OTHER KID COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET DOWN TO SEE JEREMY WHILE HE WAS HELD THERE.

YOU'RE REALLY SET ON DOING THIS? GOING DOWN THERE AND JUST... WHALING ON THE ENTITY IN ITS OWN LAIR?

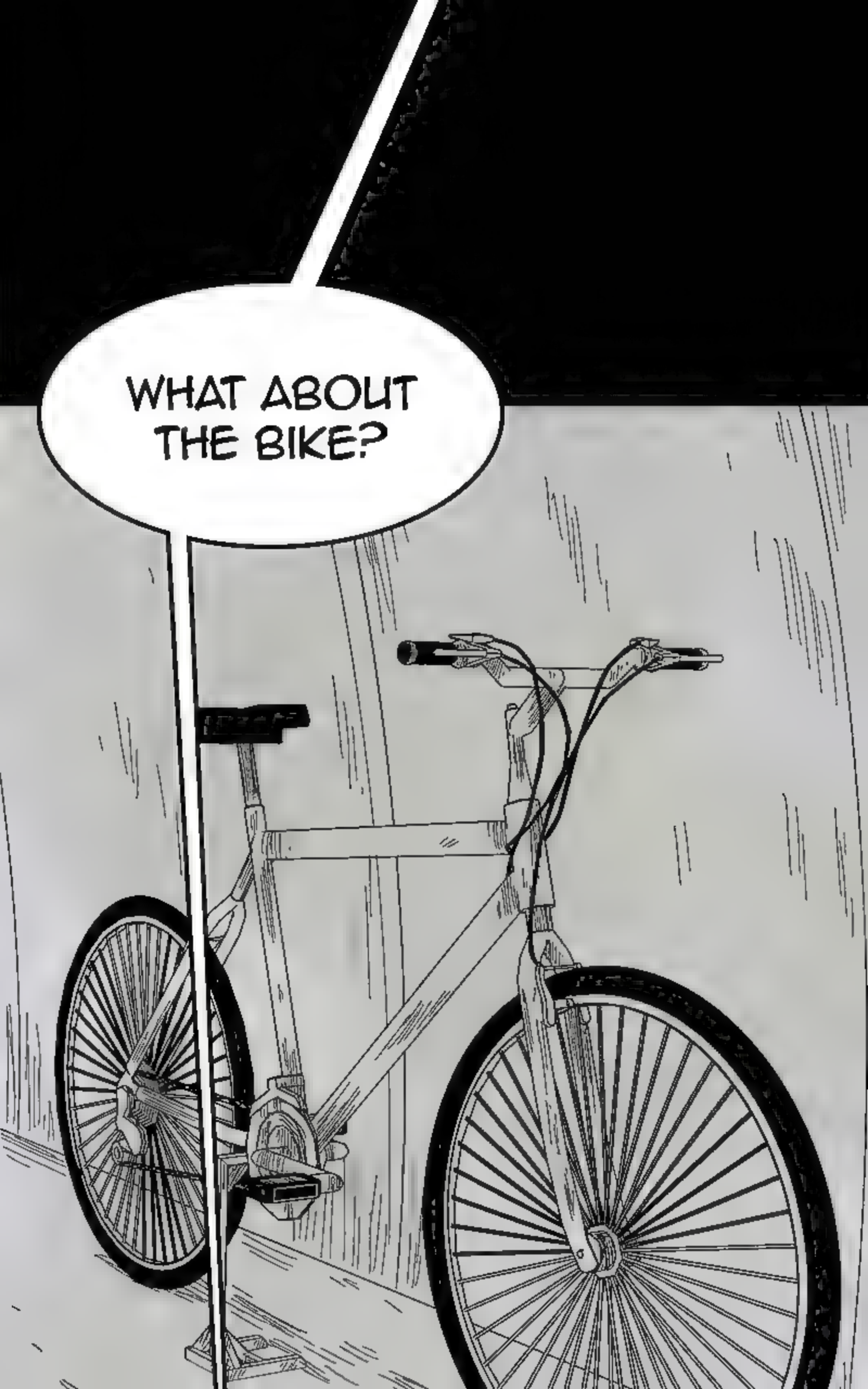

DO WE HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE?
WE CAN EITHER KEEP RUNNING AND HIDING, UNTIL WE FINALLY RUN OUT OF PLACES TO HIDE...

FIGHT

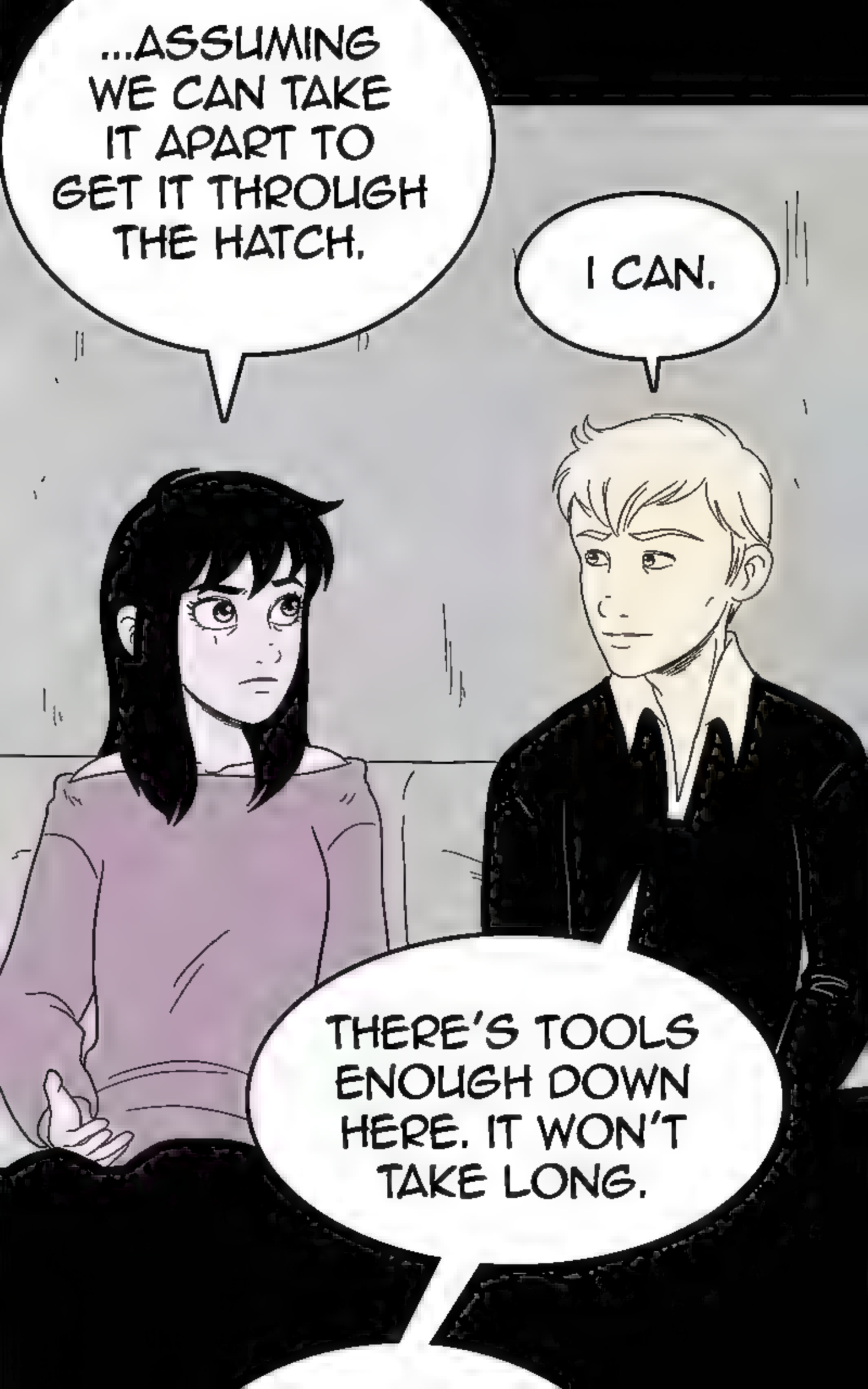
PART TWO


HOW WILL WE EVEN GET TO THE STATION? IT'S MILES AWAY AND TOO DANGEROUS TO GO ON FOOT.

HMMM...
THERE MUST BE-
OH!

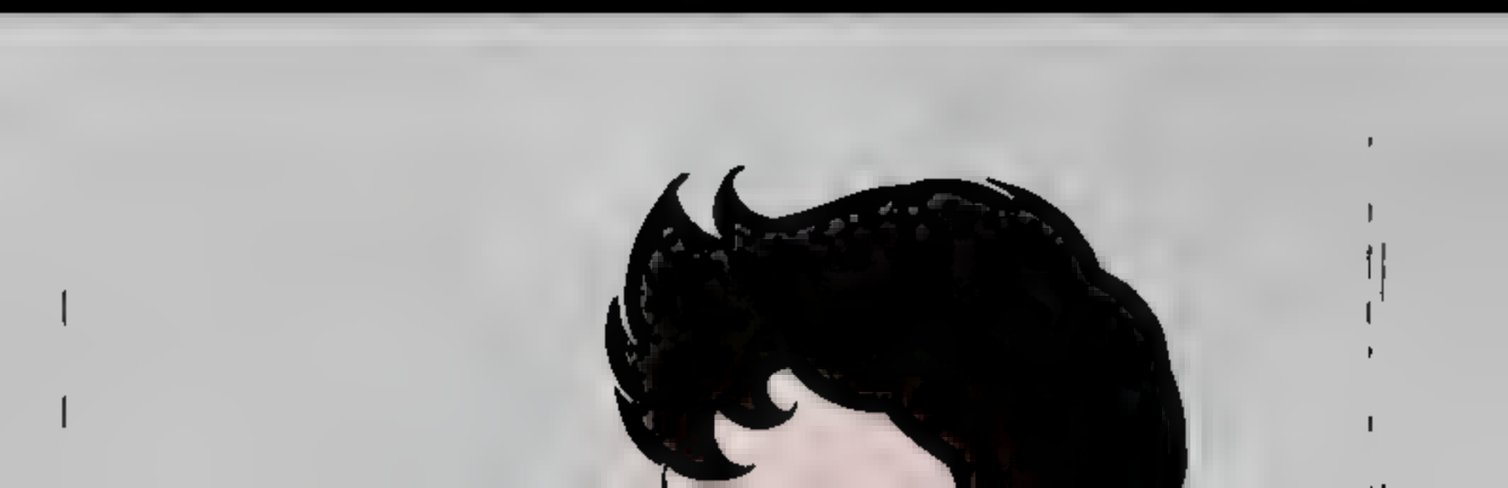

WHAT ABOUT THE BIKE?

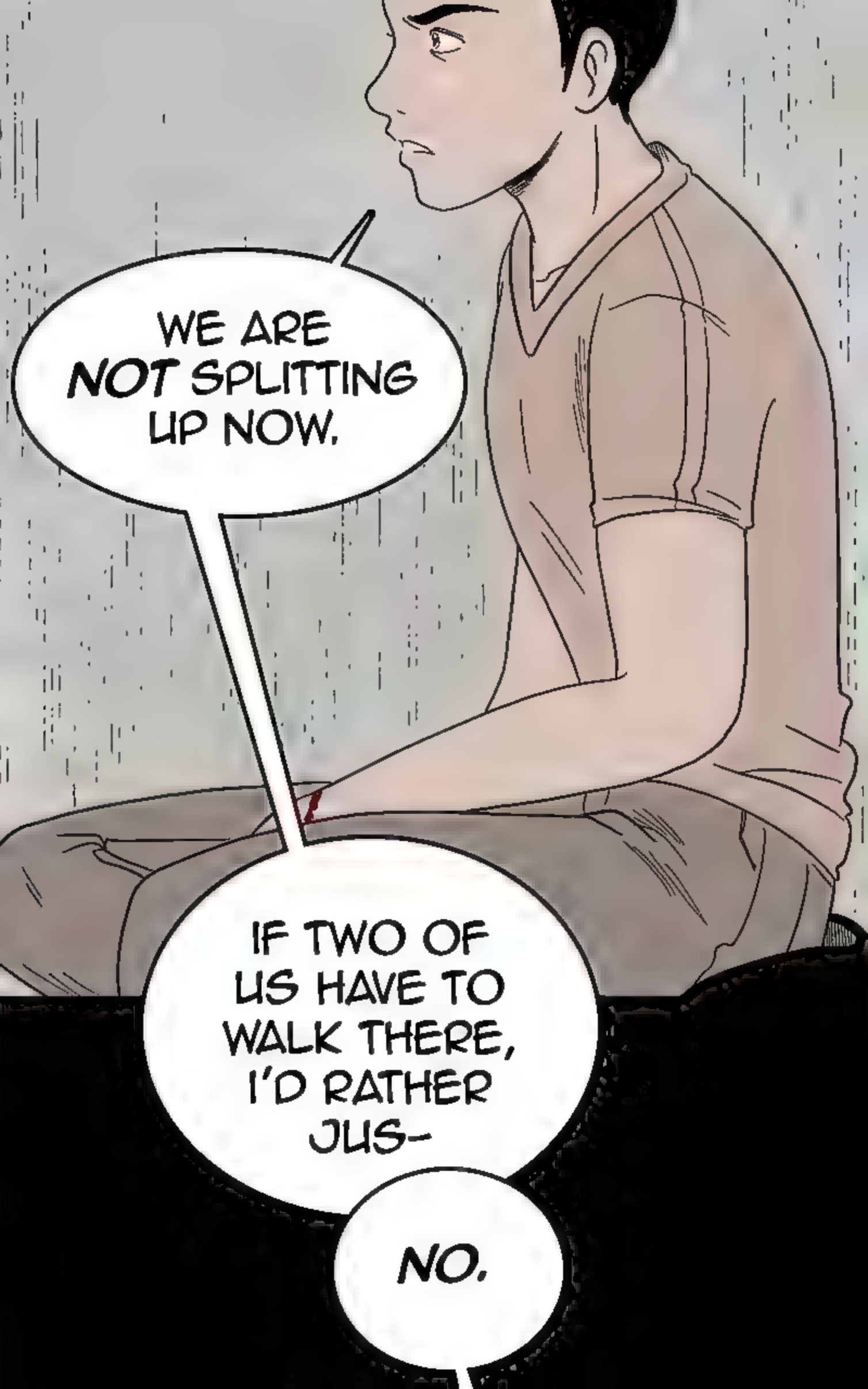
IT'S KINDA FLIMSY FOR DIRT ROADS, BUT IT CAN CARRY ONE PERSON FINE.
WE CAN USE THAT, AND SEND ONE PERSON TO GO GET THE CAR AND BRING IT BACK.


...ASSUMING WE CAN TAKE IT APART TO GET IT THROUGH THE HATCH.
I CAN.
THERE'S TOOLS ENOUGH DOWN HERE. IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

WE JUST DISASSEMBLE IT DOWN HERE, THEN BRING IT UP ONE PIE-

ABSOLUTELY NOT.




WE ARE NOT SPLITTING UP NOW.
IF TWO OF US HAVE TO WALK THERE, I'D RATHER JUS-
NO.

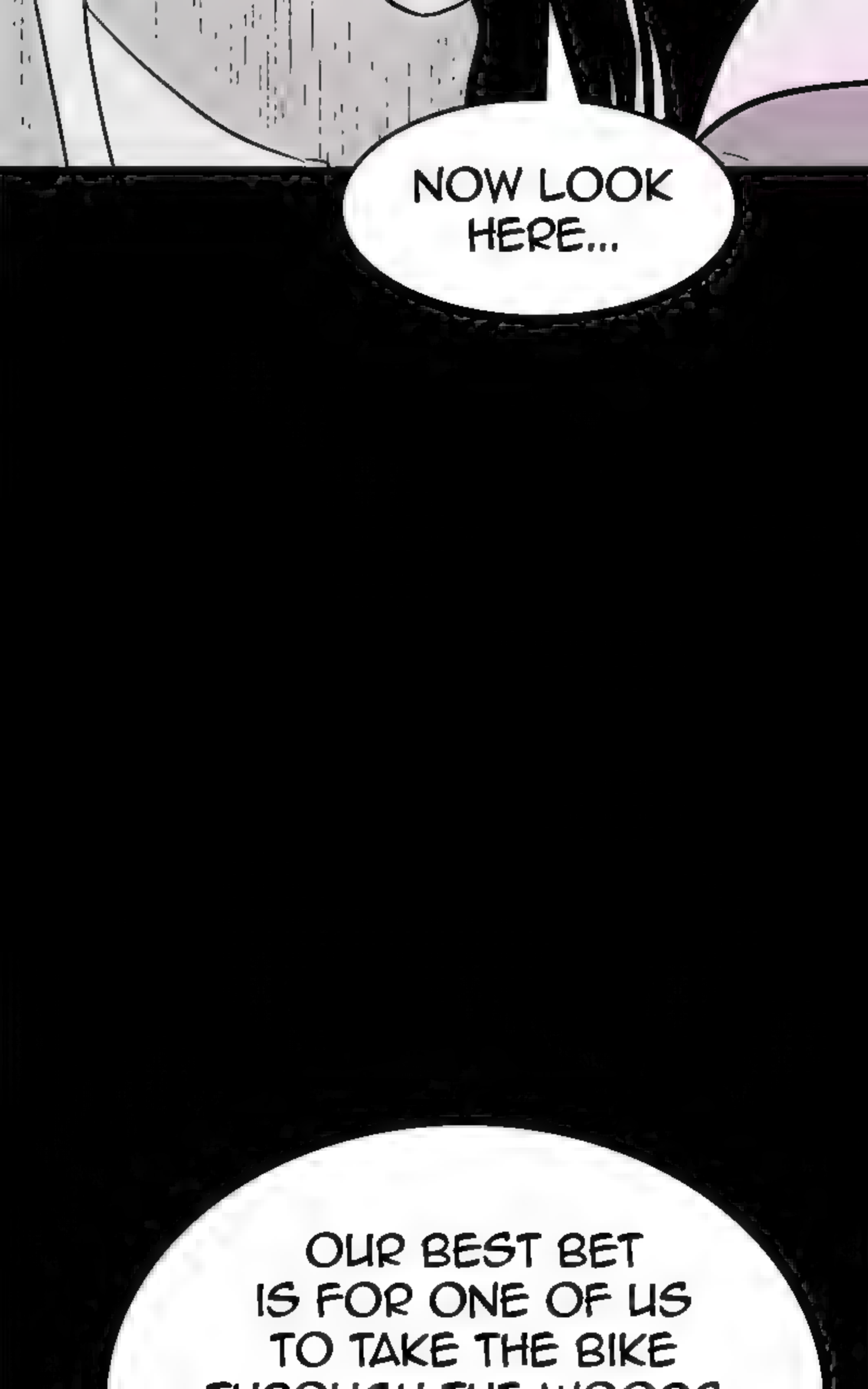
JUST...NO, FELIX. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF TRAVELING IN A BIG GROUP ANYMORE.
WE DON'T NEED NUMBERS FOR THIS. WE NEED *SPEED* AND *SILENCE*.

THE FASTER WE GET THERE AND BACK, THE BETTER.
F-FRANKIE'S RIGHT, DUDE. IT'S JUST A CALCULATED RISK AT THIS POINT.

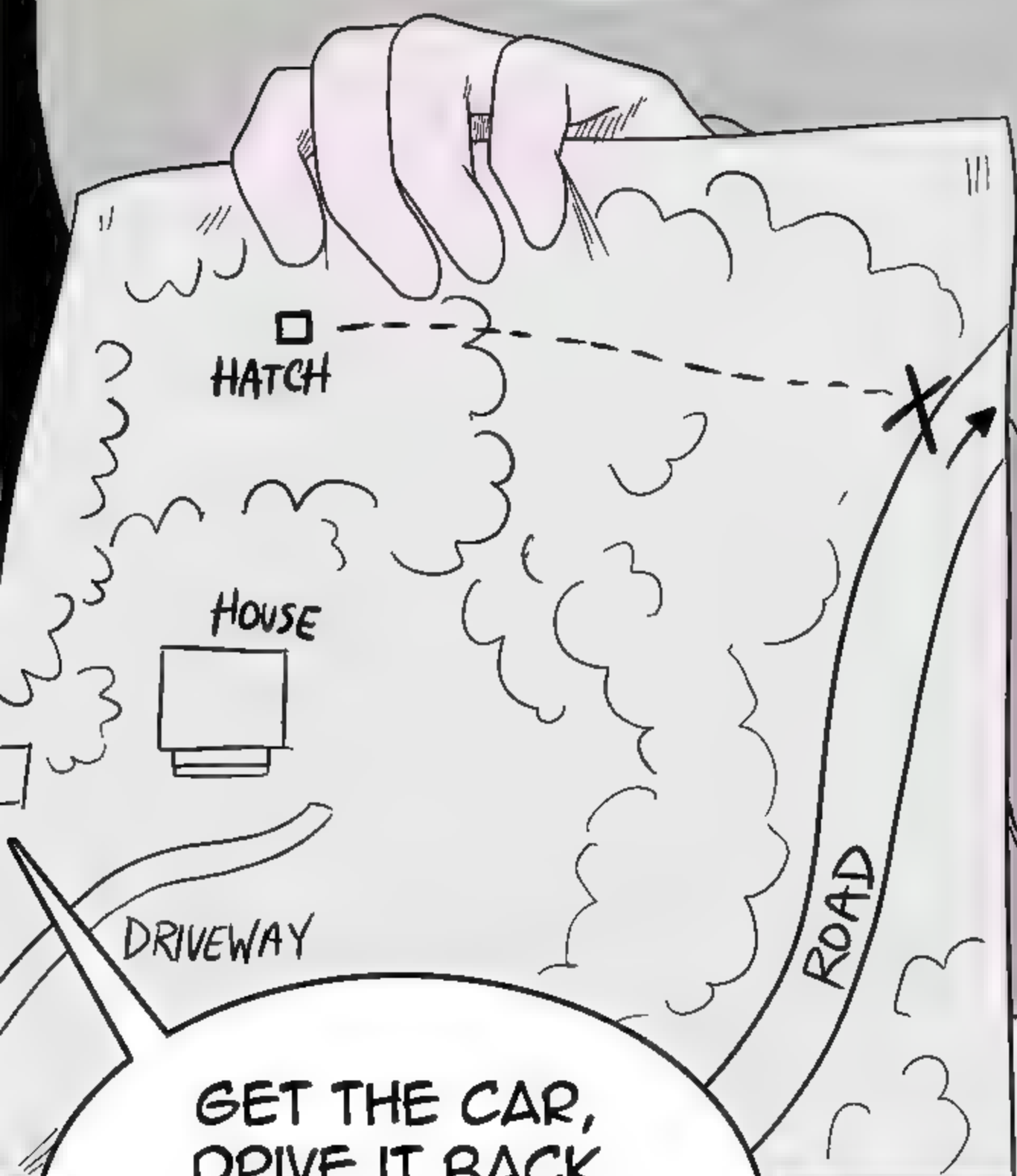
BUT WHAT IF...
WELL...*FINE*,
THEN LET'S SEARCH
BOBBY'S PLACE
FOR ANOTHER
BIKE-
ARE YOU
NUTS?

FELIX, WE CAN'T GO NEAR THE HOUSE! WE CAN'T EVEN SEE ON THE CAMERAS IF THAT THING IS STILL THERE!
ENOUGH.

LOOK, IT'S A LOUSY OPTION, I KNOW.
BUT IT'S ALL WE'VE GOT.


NOW LOOK HERE...
OUR BEST BET IS FOR ONE OF US TO TAKE THE BIKE

THROUGH THE WOODS, AWAY FROM THE HOUSE, THEN HIT THE MAIN ROAD.



GET THE CAR, DRIVE IT BACK TO THAT SPOT, THEN COME GET THE OTHERS.

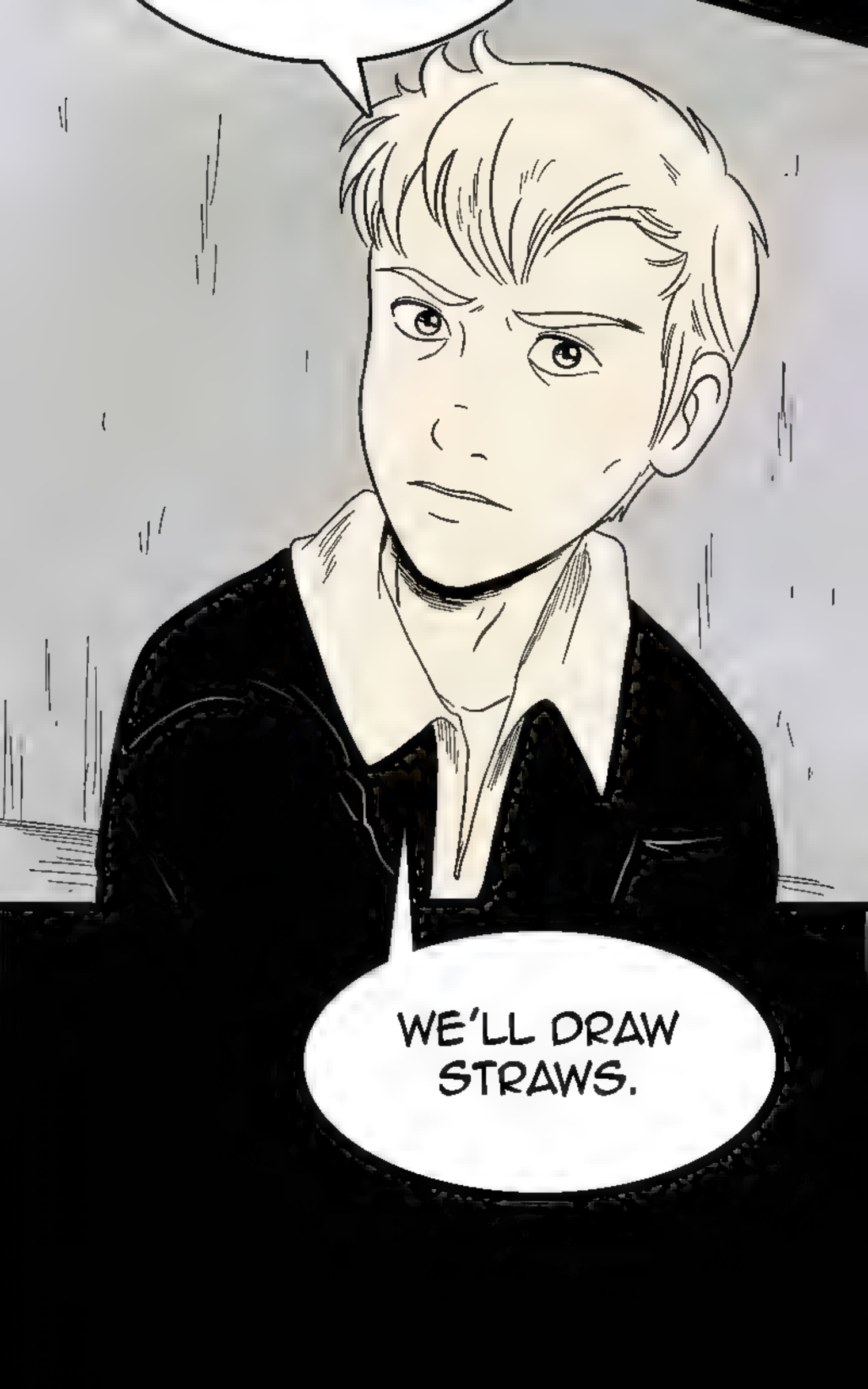
WE'LL PACK AS FAST AS WE CAN, THEN GO. WITH ANY LUCK, THAT THING NEAR THE HOUSE WON'T EVEN HEAR US.
LOOK, I KNOW IT'S A BIG RISK.

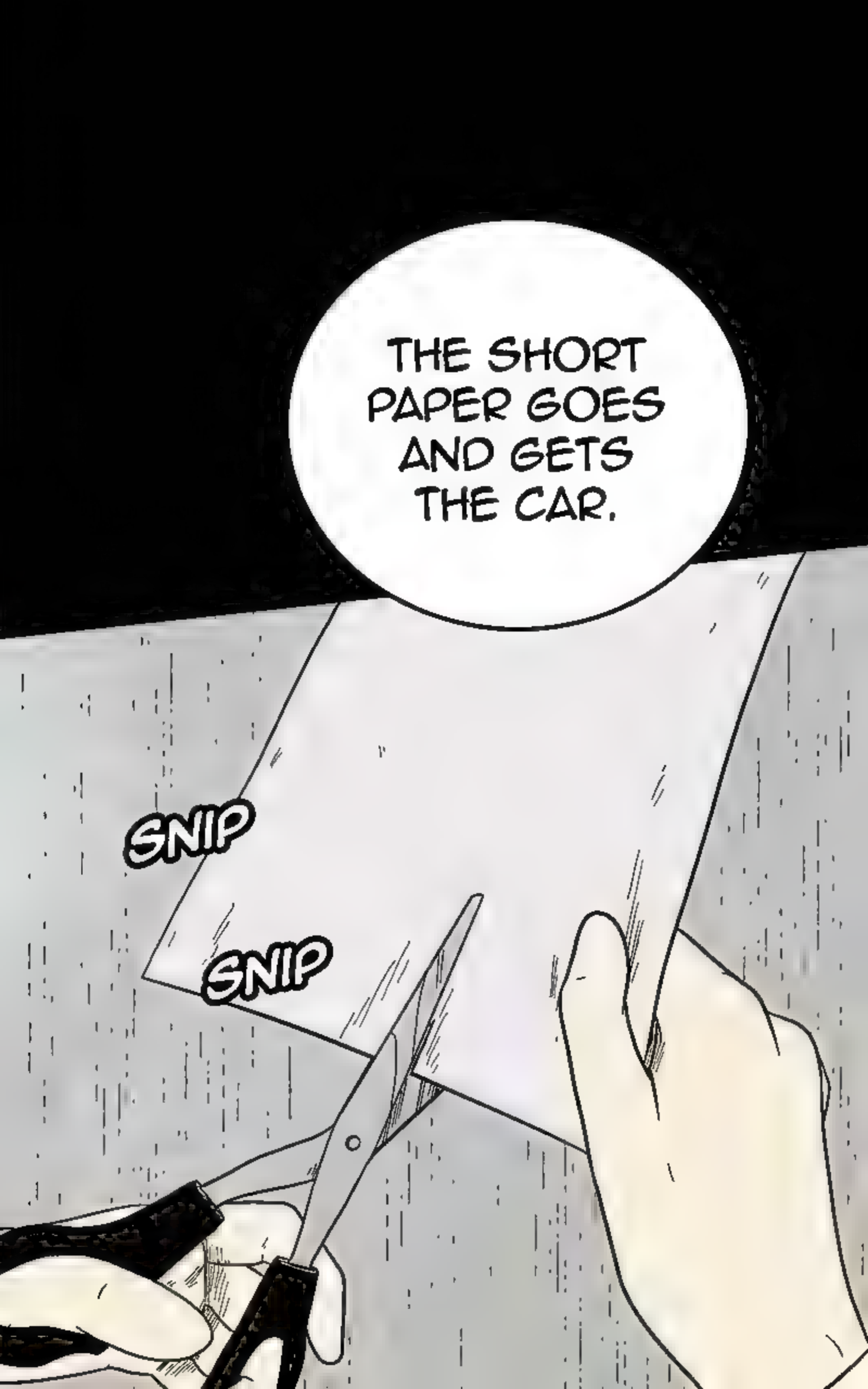
BUT IT'S THE BEST WE'RE GOING TO DO.
THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE MORE WE MAY MISS OUR CHANCE.

FINE.

THEN...WHO'S GOING?

CUZ I DON'T WANT TO SEND EITHER OF YOU...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE *NOT HERE* WHEN THAT SHADOW THING IS AROUND.
WE CAN'T WASTE TIME ARGUING OVER WHO'S MORE EXPENDABLE.


WE'LL DRAW STRAWS.


THE SHORT PAPER GOES AND GETS THE CAR.
SNIP
SNIP

THE TWO LONG ONES...STAY HERE AND PACK.

YOU FIRST, FELIX.

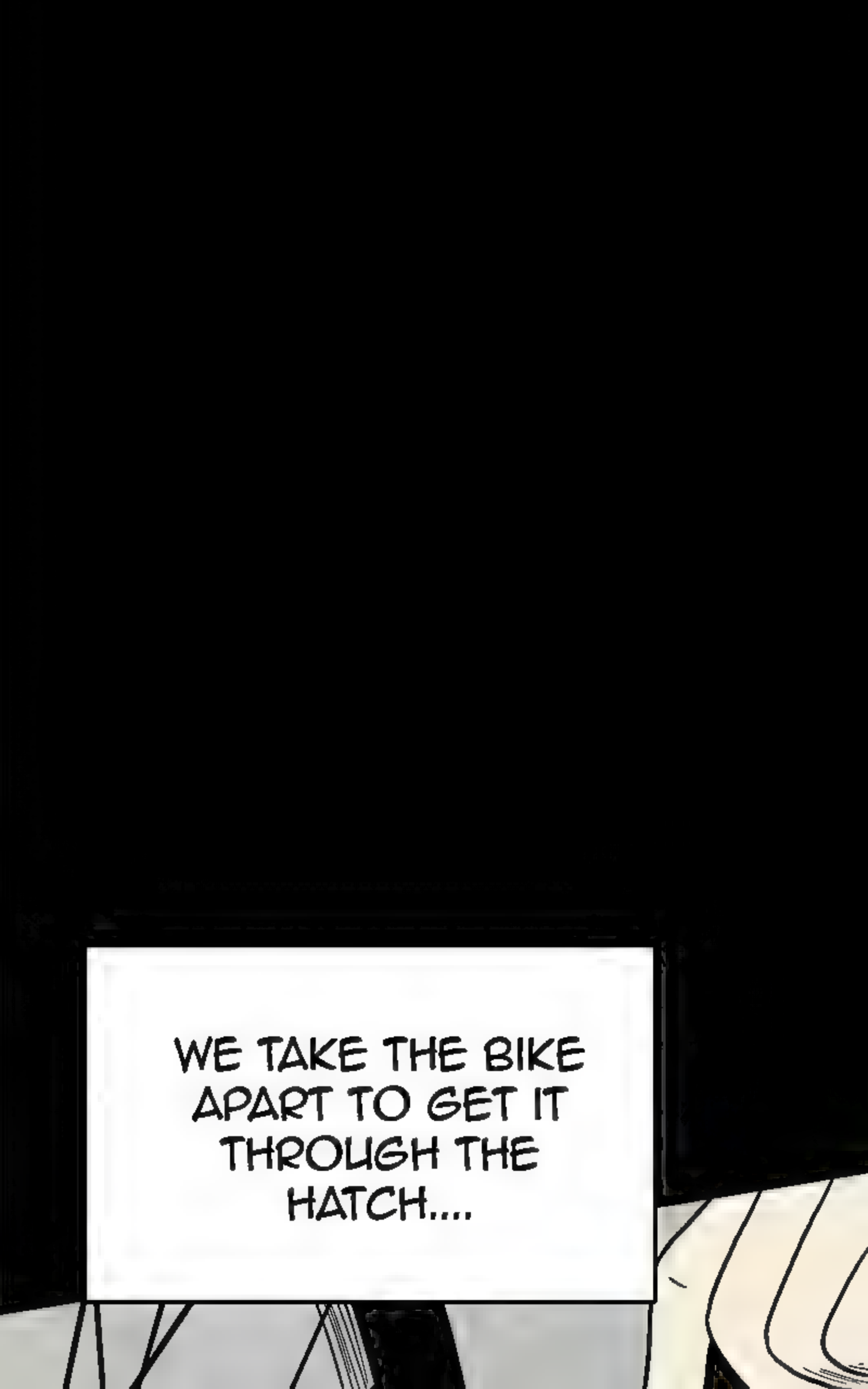
IT'S...

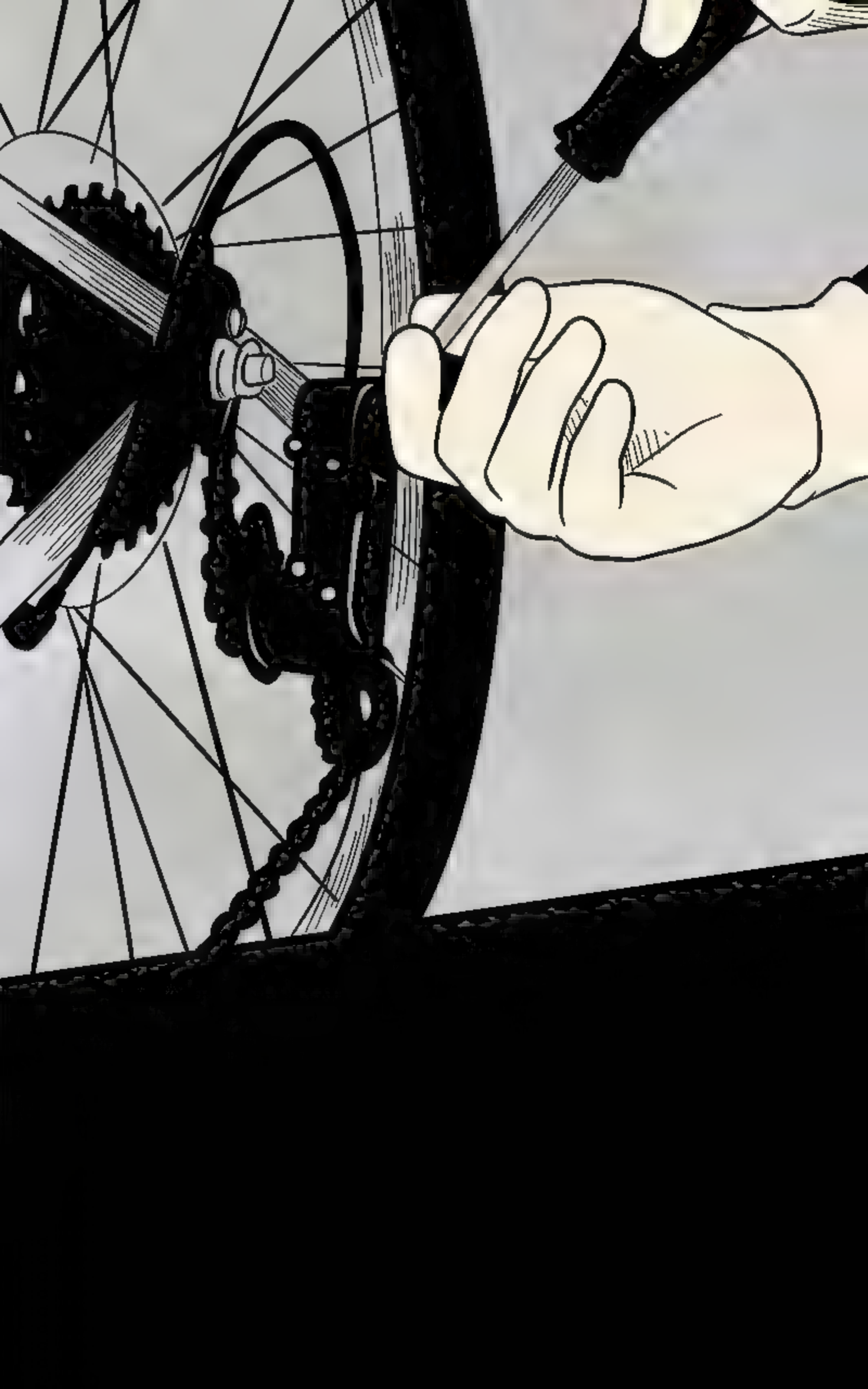
J-
JEREMY...

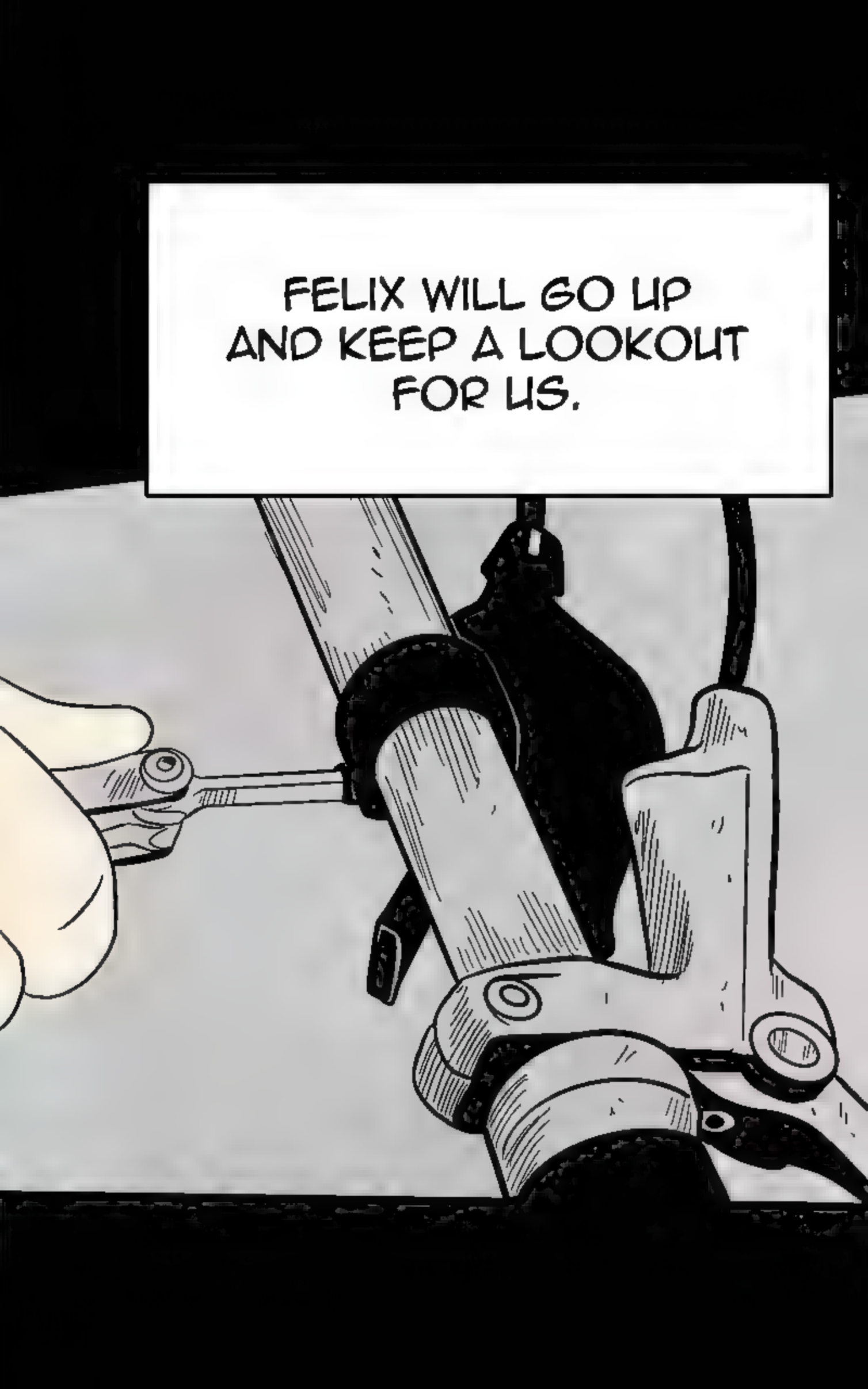
SIGH

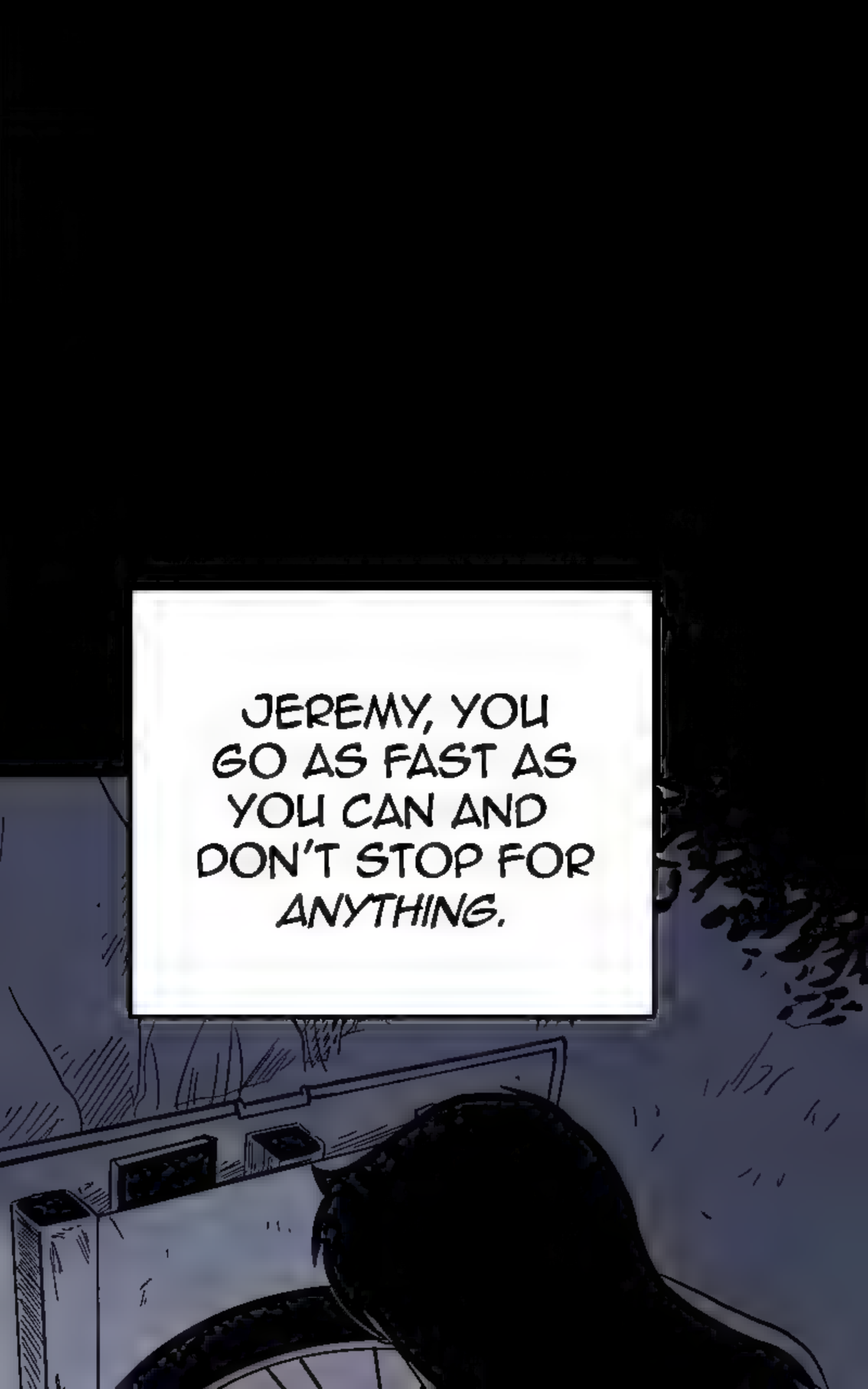
OKAY.

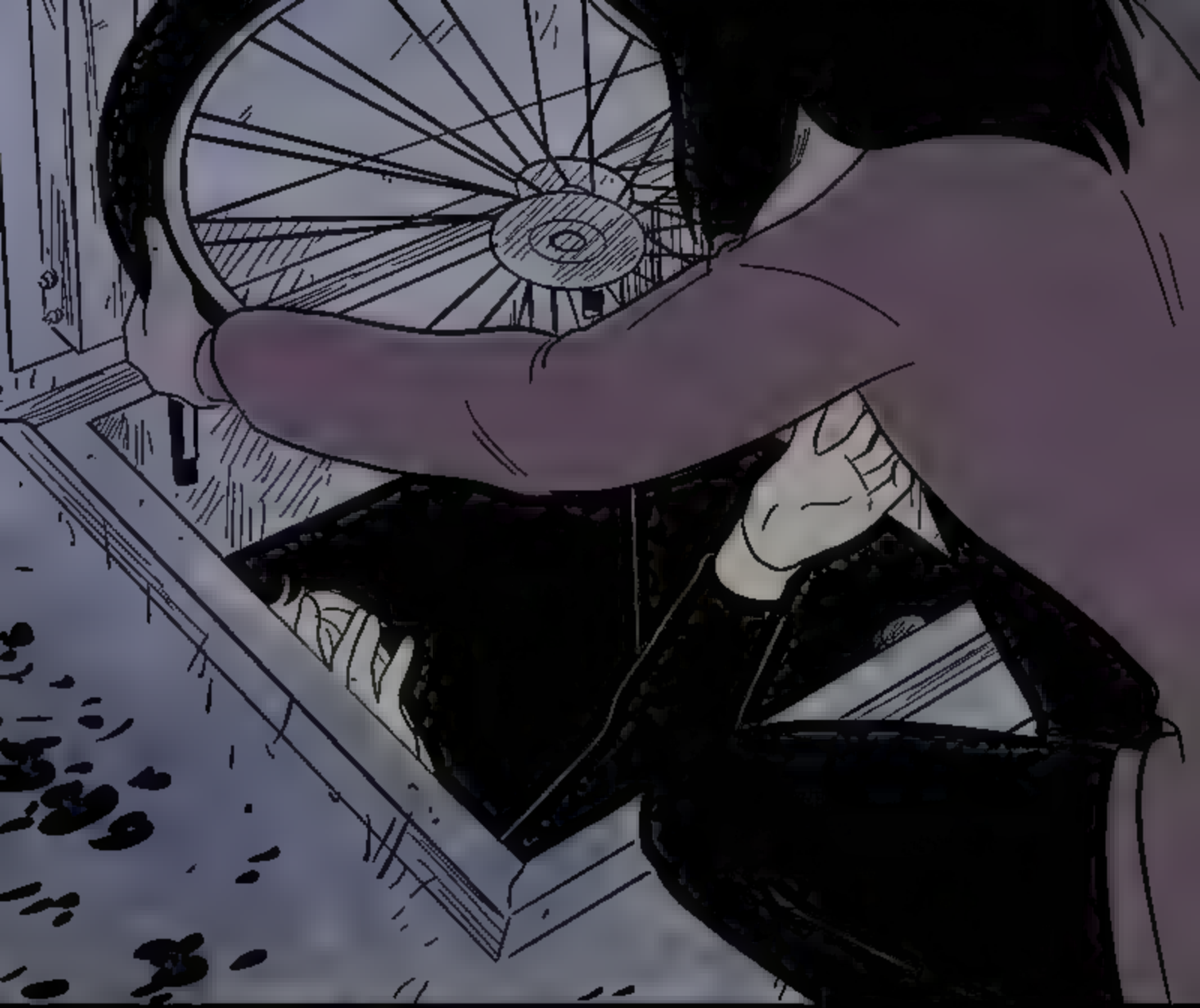
HERE'S HOW
THIS IS GOING
TO GO.


WE TAKE THE BIKE APART TO GET IT THROUGH THE HATCH....




FELIX WILL GO UP
AND KEEP A LOOKOUT
FOR US.


JEREMY, YOU GO AS FAST AS YOU CAN AND DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING.



NO MATTER
WHAT YOU MIGHT
SEE OR HEAR.

KEEP AS QUIET AS POSSIBLE, UNTIL YOU GET TO THE ROAD.

BETTER DRIVE BACK WITH THE HEADLIGHTS OFF, TOO.

IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG,

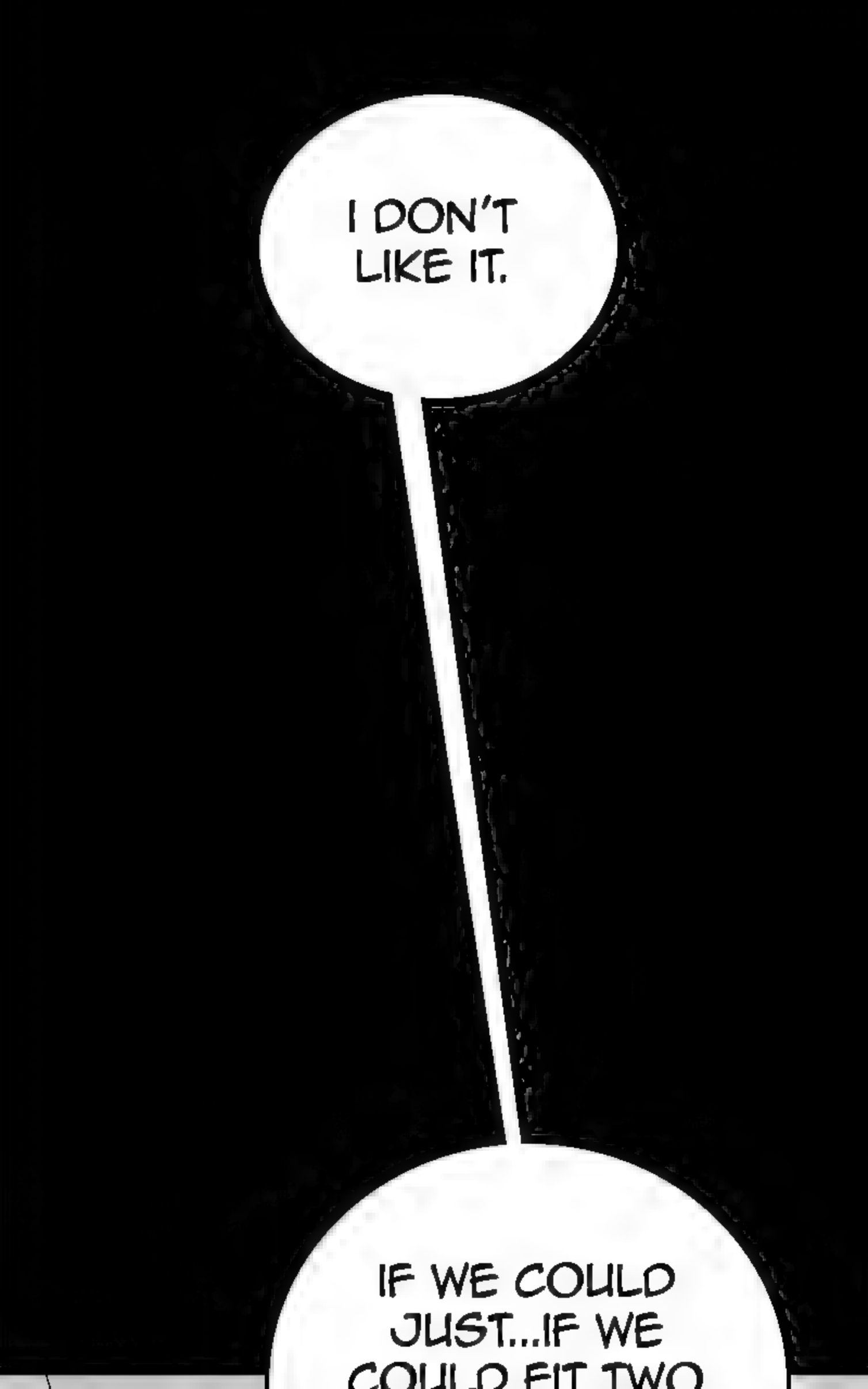
FORGET THE CAR.

JUST SAVE YOURSELF.

BE CAREFUL.

AS SOON AS JEREMY LEAVES, WE CLOSE UP THE HATCH.

AND WAIT.


I DON'T LIKE IT.
IF WE COULD JUST...IF WE

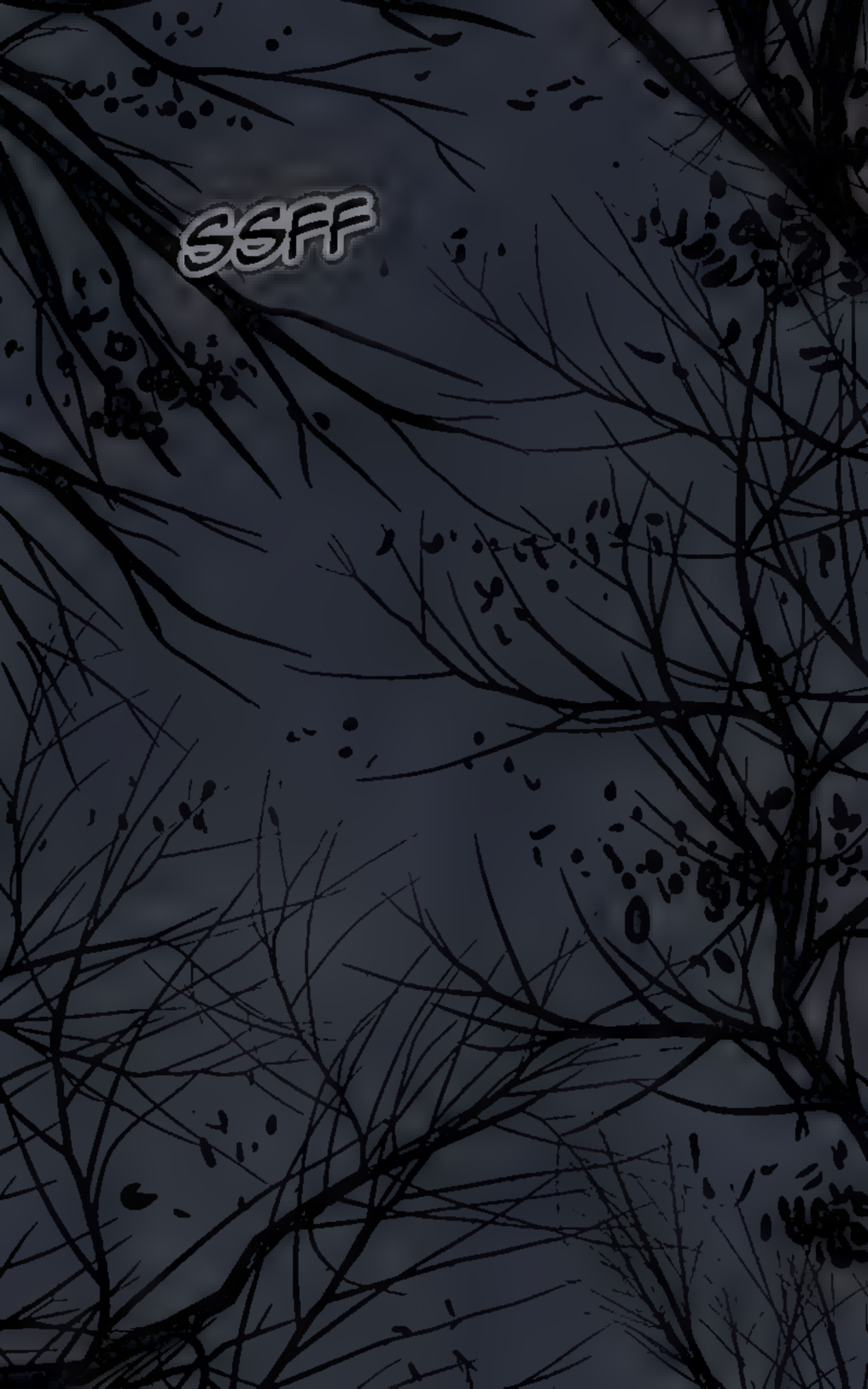
PEOPLE ON THE BIKE, OR...
OR... SOMETHING.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, WE WON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT!

FELIX, JEREMY'S BEEN THROUGH *MUCH* WORSE.

PLUS, HE'S THE FASTEST ONE OF US ON A BIKE.
HE'S MORE CAPABLE THAN YOU THINK.
I HAVE FAITH IN HIM.

HE WILL
COME BACK.

SSHHHF

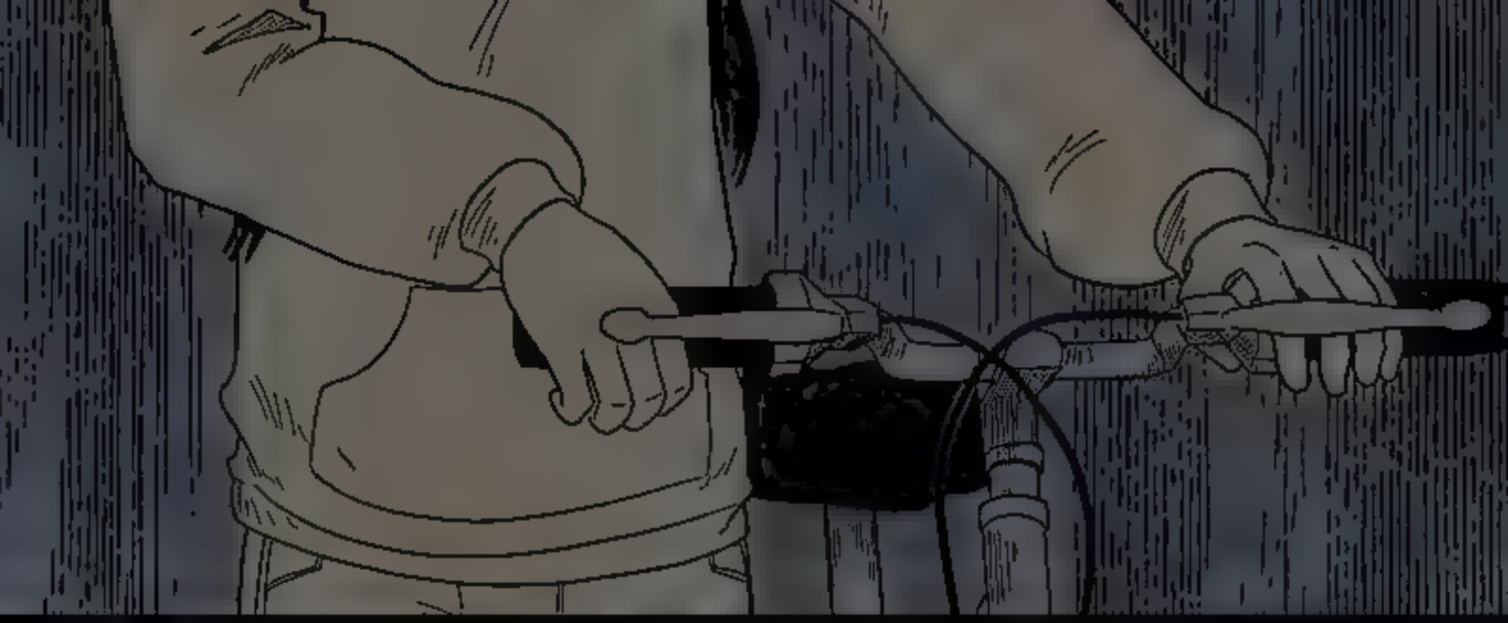

SSFF

SHHHFFF

FINALLY!

THE ROAD.

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING FOLLOWED ME...



SIGH...

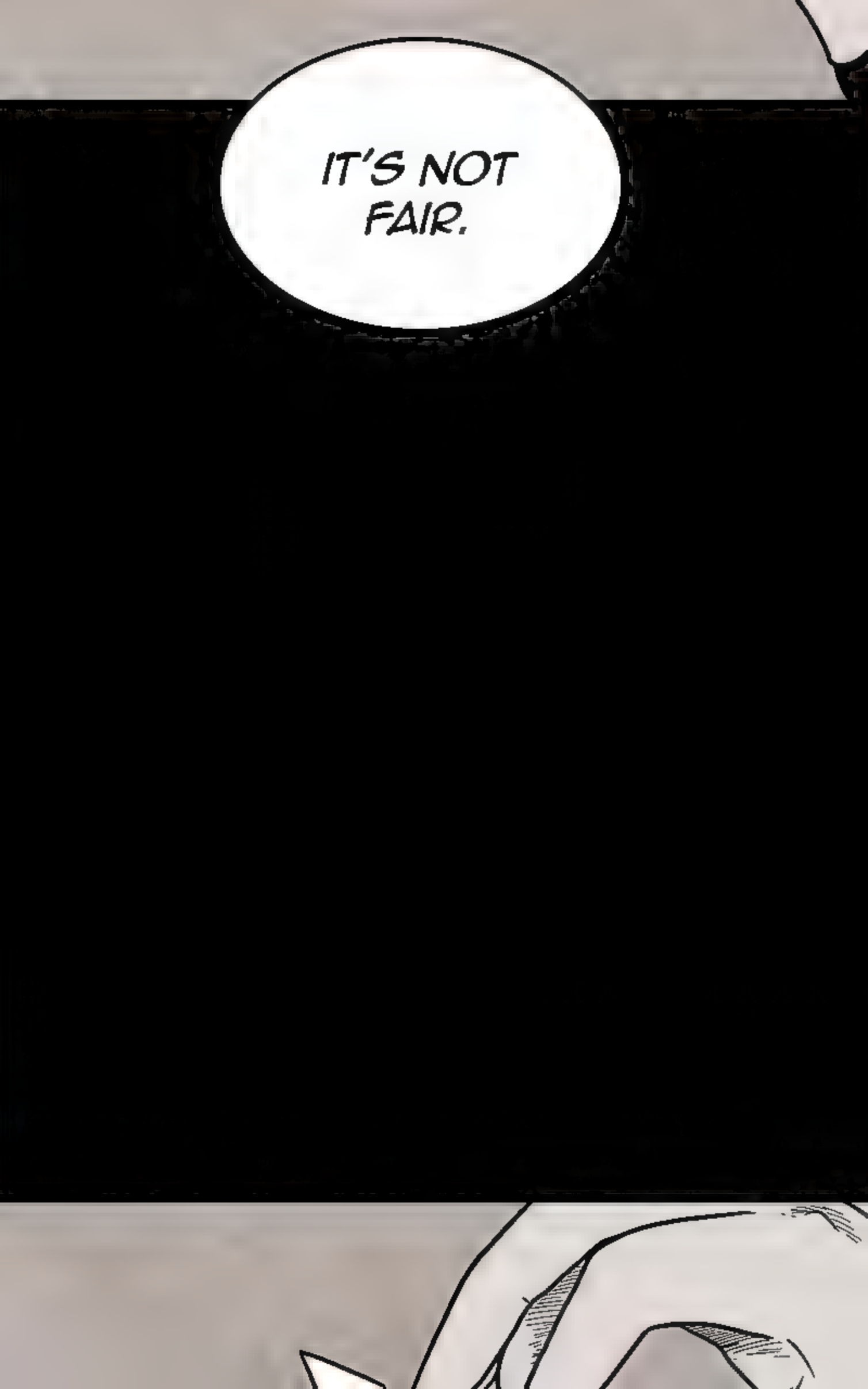
THEY'RE PROBABLY WORRIED ALREADY.
IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT.

NONE OF THIS IS THEIR FAULT.

AND YET...
THEY ALWAYS
PUT THEMSELVES
IN DANGER.

FOR ME.

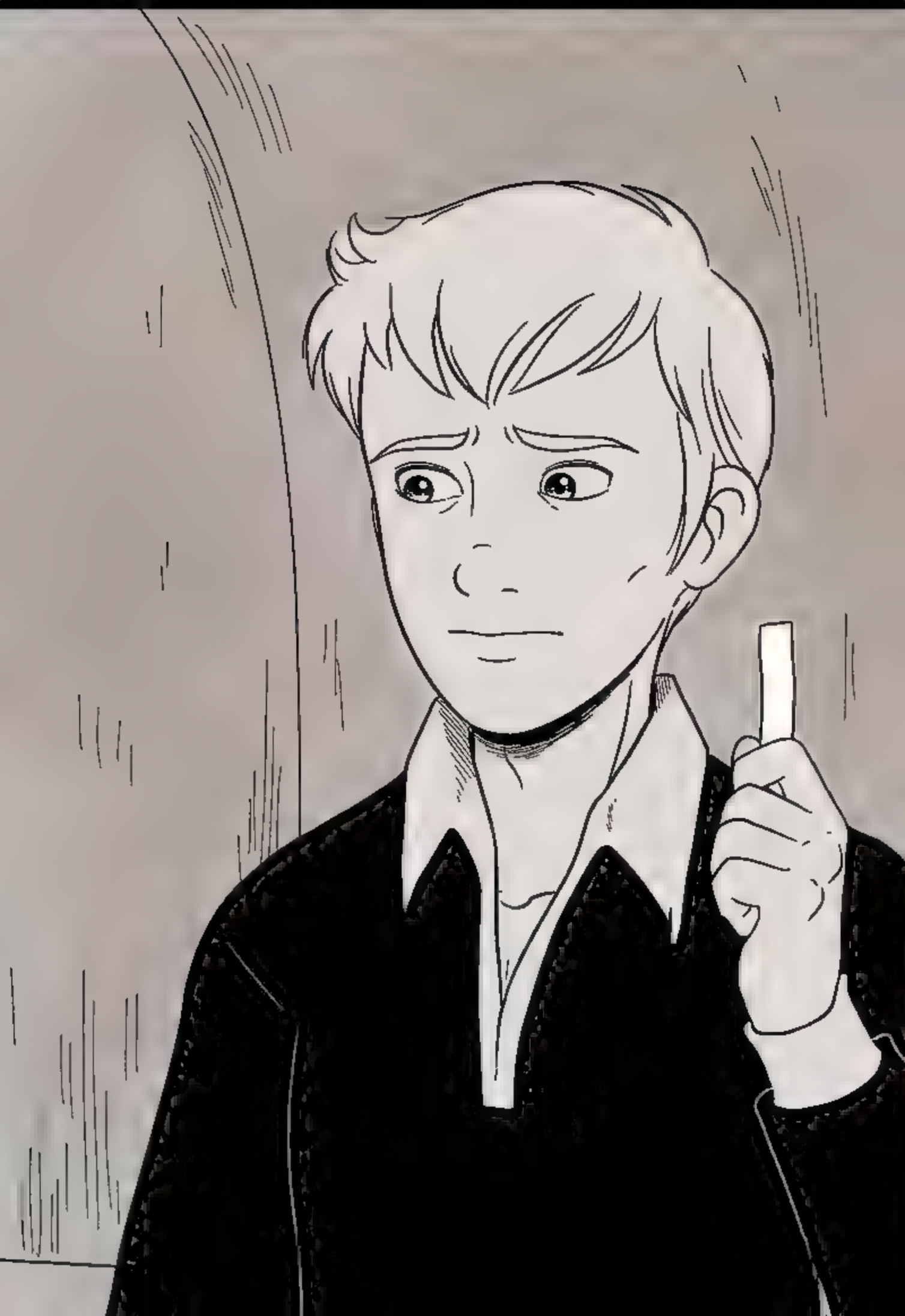
ALWAYS FOR ME.

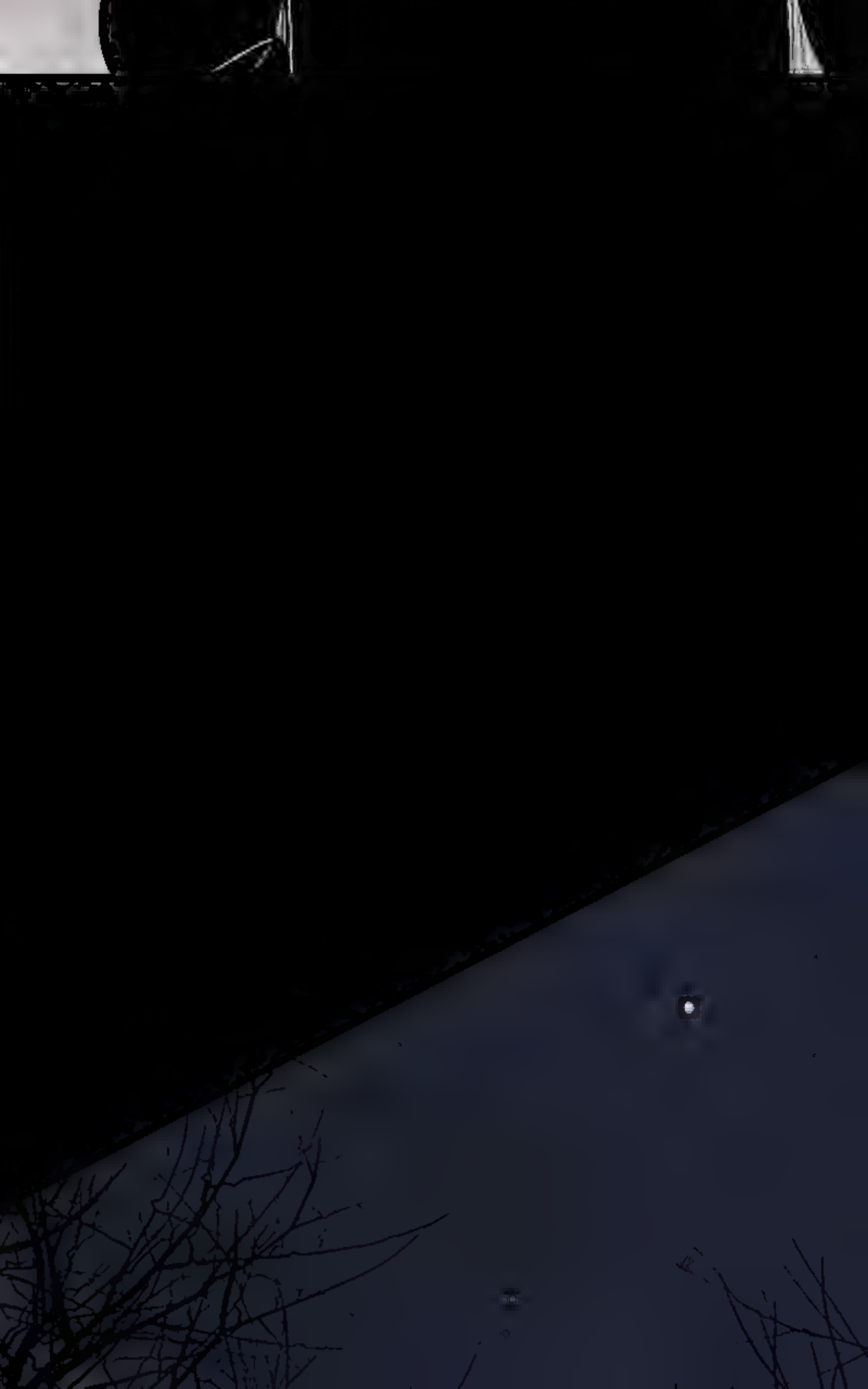

IT'S NOT FAIR.

THEY DESERVE TO BE PROTECTED TOO.

EVEN IF..

RIP
I HAVE TO CHEAT TO DO IT.





I'M SORRY, GUYS.

I'M SORRY
I DRAGGED
YOU INTO
ALL THIS.

I'M SORRY
FOR HOW MUCH
IT'S HURT YOU.

BUT I
WILL MAKE
IT RIGHT.

I PROMISE.

WE WILL GET OUT OF HERE.
AND WE WON'T EVER LOOK BACK.